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Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

Comments by the Government of Spain on resolution 55/146 entitled "Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism"

1. In response to the Secretary-General's request for views on and assessment of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000, the Government of Spain wishes to convey the comments below.

2. The Government of Spain highly appreciates the commitment shown and the work done by various United Nations bodies to achieve the objectives of resolution 55/146 and in particular the work of the General Assembly, which, through the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), follows up promptly on the reports of the Secretary-General and the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples while listening to the views of all stakeholders in the decolonization process and encouraging discussion.

3. It also attaches particular value to the work of the Special Committee, whose membership has been increasing and which, as a policymaking body of the General Assembly with respect to decolonization, has performed outstanding work in implementing the plan of action of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism through periodic reviews of the situation in each Territory and the regional seminars it organizes alternately in the Caribbean and the Pacific.

4. Similarly, the work of the Security Council, through its consideration of the Secretary-General's reports and its related resolutions, and the work of the Secretary-General in disseminating the relevant information and analysing in his

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reports the progress achieved in this sphere and, more specifically, in achieving the objectives of the plan of action are also worthy of commendation by the Spanish Government.

5. The Government of Spain is fully committed to this important work, as it has conveyed through its representatives on numerous occasions.

6. As is well known, the Government of Spain takes a particular interest in the decolonization process in Gibraltar. That is why, in assessing the implementation of resolution 55/146 and in relation to Gibraltar, the Government of Spain wishes to recall that, as is explicitly stated in paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), the principle of self-determination of peoples must be compatible with the principle of the territorial integrity of States.

7. In the specific case of Gibraltar, the administering Power acknowledges that the Treaty of Utrecht constitutes a constraint on the free exercise of self-determination by the inhabitants of the colony and that ending its sovereignty over the territory ceded in the Treaty of Utrecht would lead to independence only with the consent of the Spanish State.

8. The United Nations mandate with respect to Gibraltar is also clear. Since 1964, it has invited Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to reach a negotiated solution that takes into account the interests of the people living in the colony. Spain would like to find in the administering Power a desire similar to that of the Government of Spain, in compliance with that mandate and with the spirit of resolution 55/146 and of previous resolutions.